

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Margaret Campbell. I live in Yarmouth, and am a Mother, Grandmother and a retired Real Estate Agent. I am submitting written testimony in support of LD 2283, “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public”. I urge the committee to vote “Ought to Pass”.

I moved to Maine in 1983, after living in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. I relished not needing to lock our doors as we had located in a safe area. This realization changed last year after the Bowdoin and Yarmouth shooting killing 4 people and injuring 3. Our fear of violence for our family increased with the Lewiston tragedy 6 months later when 18 people were killed and 13 more were injured. The shooters causing these episodes gave signs of their intent toward violence before these events occurred yet there was not effective legislation in place to remove their weapons expeditiously.

Maine needs a true Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) as outlined in the bill before you today. An ERPO would allow family members or law enforcement to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from someone at risk of hurting themselves or others. An ERPO is an efficient and effective tool against mass shootings and, according to research, has prevented hundreds of mass shootings in these states (1). An FBI study showed that active shooters displayed concerning prior behaviors, such as signs of violent intentions (2).

Importantly, ERPO laws are also effective at preventing suicide. Temporarily separating someone in crisis from a firearm can give loved ones the opportunity to intervene and provide help. Given Maine’s high rate of suicide by firearms, this bill is an important public safety measure to save Maine lives.

I urge you to vote “ought to pass” for LD 2283. It would help law enforcement maintain safe communities and families to get help for their loved ones.

References

1. April M Zeoli, et al., “Extreme risk protection orders in response to threats of multiple victim/mass shooting in six US states: A descriptive study, “Preventive Medicine 165, part A (2022): 107304.
2. James Silver, Andre Simons, and Sarah Craun, “A Study of the pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooter in the United States,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, June 2018, <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/pre-attack-behaviors-of-active-shooters-in-us-2000-2013.pdf/view>